27th January 1936]

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE *RE* THE DEATH OF HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE V.

* The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—" Mr. President, Sir, we meet to-day under the shadow of death and it is my melancholy duty to move the resolution standing in my name:—

> ' *This Council having heard with profound sorrow of the death of His Majesty King George V, Emperor of India, desires to place on record its sense of the irreparable loss which the Empire has sustained and respectfully tenders its heartfelt sympathy to His Majesty King Edward VIII, to Her Majesty Queen Mary, and to the other Members of the Royal Family in their bereavement.*'

" The news of the death of His Imperial Majesty King George V came to us as a shock when he died in the early hours of last Tuesday. The news of His late Majesty's illness came to us only on the previous Sunday and little did we dream that the end would come so soon. During this short interval the illness was followed with attention and anxiety throughout the world. The tragic termination of the illustrious ruler cast an unparalleled gloom over the Empire. It has evoked the greatest manifestations of sympathy known to history. It is instantaneously realized that it is more than a mere loss of their Sovereign to the people of the British Empire. It is a loss to the whole world of a genuine and great lover of the peace of mankind. Coming to the throne in troublous times and called to duties of unexampled complexity, this great Monarch had no rest at all during the twenty-six years of his reign. Constitutional crises of first-rate importance at home and in the Empire, a world-war, revolutions throughout the world and a phenomenal economic depression had left him no respite, but His late Majesty had, amidst moving and stirring events, played his part gallantly, working steadily for peace and concord amongst the nations of the world. His conception of the Empire as a Joint Family, has brought

its component parts nearer than ever and cemented them into a solid unit. As has been reported, even on his deathbed His late Majesty was thinking of the welfare of the Empire and almost his last words are said to be 'How is the Empire?' To us Indians the demise of His late Majesty is even a deeper loss than to any others of His Majesty's subjects. Sympathy towards India was the keynote of his glorious rule. We had passed through rapid constitutional changes during the last twenty-six years and, whatever might have been our political views, we had always known that the sympathy of His late Majesty was ever with us. During the quarter of a century of his benevolent rule, he strove hard for the peace, contentment and happiness of his Indian subjects. In this moment of sorrow, I cannot help recalling how in 1933, when I had the privilege of being admitted to his august presence, His Majesty had asked me so many questions about men and affairs in India which clearly revealed not only his intimate acquaintance with the problems affecting our great country but also the very keen and abiding interest he evinced in the welfare of her people. Even as early as in 1906, after his return to England from his first visit to this land, he had stated: 'The task of governing India will be made easier if we on our part infuse into it a wider element of sympathy. I will venture to predict that to such a sympathy, there will be an ever-abundant and genuine response.' It was towards the achievement of this ideal that he had unswervingly directed his Indian policy throughout his reign. Impelled by his deep sympathy towards Indian aspirations, a sympathy which played no little part during the Round Table Conferences, His Most Gracious Majesty spared no pains and lost no opportunity in instilling such sympathy into the hearts of his Ministers and advisers in England and his representatives in India. It was this sympathy, this keenness, this paternal attitude towards his subjects in this country that has made him so much loved and venerated by us. He has proved more than any one else the truth of the saying నా విష్ణు పృథ్వీపతిః

27th January 1936] [Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu]

'Naa Vishnu Prudhvi Pathihi.' No one can be a King unless he has the spirit of Godhead in him. His late Imperial Majesty has more than proved that godliness alone exalteth Kings and wins the true love and affection of their subjects.

"To our new Sovereign, to the Gracious Lady, the Queen Mother, and to the other members of the Royal Family, we tender our respectful and heartfelt sympathy in their grievous affliction and loss which the 350 millions of this great country share to an immeasurable degree. Their loss is our loss and this country will for ever remember with grateful affection and reverence, the zeal and earnestness with which our late Emperor endeavoured to help her at every stage of her constitutional progress.

"Sir, I move the resolution."

* Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Mr. President, I beg to second the resolution moved by the Hon. the Leader of the House and in doing so I beg to associate myself with the Mover. In the death of our late King-Emperor, the empire has lost an illustrious sovereign and never before in English History has the Crown with all its constitutional limitations wielded such influence. This was due to His Majesty's conception of his exalted office and his great desire to harmonize conflicting interests. There have been many critical occasions during the last 25 years. The reign began with the controversy on the Parliament Bill and immediately after it came the Agadir Crisis and then the Great War. On all these critical occasions His Majesty's influence helped to bring together the nation and to solve the difficult problems that confronted the British Empire. The severest test came during the Great War and though many thrones have toppled down, the British Crown received a new accession of strength and popularity and this has been mainly due to His Majesty's keen sense of devotion to duty and his personal character. His sympathy with India is well known and the universal sorrow has shown that he was not only respected in his Empire but also

outside where he was honoured as very few crowned heads have been at any time. Lord Tweedsmuir, better known as John Buchan, has put the influence of the King in words that cannot be bettered. As he has said, ' the King has added to the duties of the Crown a graciousness which springs from his own character. He has given to ceremonial the bloom of friendliness. He has always possessed a high seriousness and the note of faith and piety which he has often struck has not been the mere convention of his office. He has walked securely in more difficult constitutional paths than any of his immediate predecessors. He has faced courageously crises which imperilled both his people and his throne. But in addition to all these, he has diffused a spirit of simplicity and charity which has profoundly affected the national temper.' Our heart goes out to His Majesty the King and the Queen Mother and the other members of the Royal Family in the great loss they have sustained by the death of our late King. As has been well said by Mr. Somervell, ' some men live in history as the authors of a single outstanding achievement; others build perhaps a steadier reputation upon a thousand unostentatious actions.' It is high up in the second of these classes that King George will find his place. As Mr. Baldwin has aptly said in the House of Commons, the King's family life was so sacred that it cannot even be mentioned. In his death, the Empire has lost not only its chief but also a great gentleman. His Majesty King Edward is succeeding to a great heritage and we may feel sure that he will follow the great example set by his noble father and thus heighten the influence of the Crown right through his far-flung Empire and make English Kinghood a shining example to all crowned heads.''

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT :—'' The question is—

' *This Council having heard with profound sorrow of the death of His Majesty King George V, Emperor of India, desires to place on record its*

27th January 1936] [The President]

> *sense of the irreparable loss which the Empire has sustained and respectfully tenders its heartfelt sympathy to His Majesty King Edward VIII, to Her Majesty Queen Mary, and to the other members of the Royal Family in their bereavement.'* ''

The motion was carried *nem. con.*, all the hon. Members standing in silence.

The House adjourned as a mark of respect, to meet again at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, the 29th January 1936.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
தமிழ்நாடு சட்டமன்றப் பேரவை
வாய்மையே வெல்லும்
TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS